

REMARK

Prior to examine the present application, the applicant(s) hereby submits a revised specification and claims which voluntarily correct the typographic errors and informalities contained in the original PCT application.

A "version with markings to show changes made" is also separately attached.

A Declaration of Applicant(s) is accompanied with the substitute specification to swear NO NEW MATTER entered.

Respectfully submitted



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS
TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

TIME-INTERLEAVED BAND-PASS DELTA-SIGMA MODULATOR

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Technical Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to a time-interleaved bandpass Δ - Σ modulator (hereinafter, referred to as "a delta-sigma modulator"). More particularly, this invention relates to a delta-sigma modulator ~~includes~~ including a plurality of channel blocks, of which the phase of the lock frequencies ~~is~~ are different ~~to~~ from each other, so as to
10 reduce a clock frequency.

2. Background-Related Prior Art

A delta-sigma modulator generally includes a lowpass modulator and a bandpass
15 modulator. The lowpass modulator is used for audio devices, while the bandpass modulator is used for radio communication. The delta-sigma modulator may be composed of a continuous-time circuit or a discrete-time circuit, with reference to Fig. 1a and Fig. 1b. A bandpass delta-sigma modulator in Fig. 1b samples the intermediate-frequency (IF) as ~~much~~ many as four times, and removes quantization noise (this is
20 referred to as shaping). In the modulator, because the noise is shaped at the input signal within the desired band, a high signal-to-noise ~~ratio~~ ratio (SNR) can be achieved at the input signal on the desired band.

A bandpass delta-sigma modulator, ~~which~~ that is implemented by a continuous-time circuit (see Fig. 1a), has an advantage that it can operate in a high frequency band.

However, it also has a disadvantage that ~~a~~the user must tune a center frequency. In the case of a bandpass delta-sigma modulator in ~~Fig. 1b, which~~that is embodied by discrete-time circuit as in Fig. 1b, such as a switched capacitor circuit, however accurate and reliable it may be, it cannot be operated on the commonly used high frequency IF band, because it must use a clock frequency four times higher than the input signal.

~~Disclosure~~ SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention has been developed to avoid the drawbacks of the conventional delta-sigma modulator. Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide a time-interleaved bandpass delta-sigma modulator which is capable of directly performing analog-to-digital conversion even on the high frequency IF band of radio communication systems, by innovatively ~~lightening~~relaxing the requirements of a clock frequency and settling time.

As such, a main concept of this invention is that it performs the same function as the conventional discrete signal bandpass delta-sigma modulator shown in Fig. 1b. However, it can be constituted by only adders and comparators which include a plurality of channel blocks without delay means' (z^{-2} or 2-delay), thereby reducing the requirements of a clock frequency and a settling time, depending on the number of channel blocks.

Fig. 2a and Fig. 2b show an example of the conventional delta-sigma modulator, modified from the one in Fig. 1b. It is noted that ~~a~~the device in Fig. 2a performs the same function as ~~a~~the device in Fig. 1b, and Fig. 2b is a functional equivalent view

against ~~compared to~~ Fig. 2a.

In Figs. 2a and 2b, ~~the~~ input signal x enters a first adder 11. ~~The Output-output~~ u of ~~he~~ ~~the~~ first adder 11 is fed-back to the first adder 11 through a 2-delay, and enters a second adder 13 through a 2-delay 12. ~~The Output-output~~ v of the second adder 13 is
5 fed-back to the second adder 13 through a 2-delay 14, and simultaneously enters a comparator 15. ~~The Output-output~~ y of the comparator 15 is again fed-back to the first adder 11 and the second adder 13 through the 2-delays, so that the analog input signal x can be converted to ~~the~~ a digital output signal y . However, the conventional delta-sigma modulator must sample the input signal by using a clock frequency four times
10 higher than the input signal, and therefore, it cannot be operated in the commonly used high frequency IF band, which has been discussed above.

To overcome this problem, the ~~present invention~~ delta-sigma modulator ~~of the present invention~~ uses a plurality of channel blocks without the delay means'. ~~The channel blocks are included in a dashed box 20 of Fig. 2b without delay means'.~~ ~~The~~
15 ~~Clock-clock~~ frequency of the respective channel blocks is reduced in inverse proportion to the number of channel blocks, and ~~the~~ phase difference of the clock frequency becomes $1/5$ ~~on~~ ~~between~~ every pair of channel blocks. For example, if the number of channel blocks is 5, the clock frequency decreases to $1/5$.

Therefore, according to the present invention, an input signal is ~~inputted-input~~ to the
20 first adder according to ~~an~~ each channel block's clock frequency, and an ~~nthn~~ channel block's output u_n of the first adder is ~~inputted-input~~ to the first adder and the second adder of an ~~(n+2)thn+2~~ channel block, and an ~~nthn~~ block's output v_n of the second adder is ~~inputted-input~~ to the second adder of an ~~(n+2)thn+2~~ block, and an output y_n that passes an ~~nthn~~ block's comparator is ~~inputted-input~~ to the first adder and the

second adder of an $(n+2)^{\text{th}}$ block. Therefore, a modulator of according to the present invention receives the output of ~~the~~ each block's comparator sequentially and makes the final output y, which is analog-to-digital converted output signal. Therefore, ~~when~~ supposing the number of channel blocks is N, ~~wherein a~~ the phase difference
5 between the n^{th} channel block and $(n+1)^{\text{th}}$ channel block is sampled to $1/N$ of the clock frequency.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figs. 1a and 1b are schematic diagrams of a conventional delta-sigma modulator.

Figs. 2a and 2b are schematic diagrams modified from Fig. 1b.

15 Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram of one embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 4 is a timing diagram of the present invention.

Fig. 5 is a detailed view of a channel A in Fig. 3.

Figs. 6a-6c shows another embodiment of the present invention.

20 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS ~~for Carrying out the~~ Invention

Preferred embodiments of a time-interleaved delta-sigma modulator according to the present invention will be described below with reference to the accompanying

drawings.

Fig. 3 shows a delta-sigma modulator of the present invention, which is constituted by five channel blocks. Fig. 4(a) is a timing diagram of the conventional delta-sigma modulator shown in Fig. 1b, and Fig. 4(b) is a timing diagram of the delta-sigma modulator of the present invention, shown in Fig. 3. Fig. 5 shows a the detailed circuitry of channel A shown in Fig. 3, which is constituted by switched capacitors.

In Fig. 3, each ~~the~~ channel block is implemented by a dashed box in Fig. 2b. Also, all of the channel blocks have the same ~~constitution~~ structure, except the phase of the clock frequency. The phase differences of the clock frequency of each ~~the~~ channel block are depicted in Fig. 4(b). The phase difference of the clock frequency of the ~~neighbouring~~ neighboring channel block is $1/5$ of a period. Because of the phase differences, input signals sequentially enter the channel block, ~~respectively,~~ and the adder output of the ~~n -th~~ n -th channel block is changed at $n, 2$. At this time, since the adder output of the ~~n -th~~ n -th channel block should reach the steady state condition before the starting of the $n+2, 2$ clock tick? of the ~~$(n+2)$ -th~~ $n+2$ channel block, the required settling time can be reduced to $1/4$ and the required clock frequency can be reduced to $1/5$, compared to a single channel block.

Fig. 5 is a specific circuit diagram of channel block A of the 5-channel block delta-sigma modulator implemented by switched capacitors, which is comprised of a first adder 11', a second adder 13', and a comparator 15'. Fig. 5 shows only one possible example of the present invention, and therefore, the scope of the ~~inventive~~ concept of this invention should not be limited to the diagram shown in Fig. 5.

With reference to Figs. 3 and 5, the input signal x is sequentially ~~inputted~~ input to the first adder of each channel block, in accordance with the phase of each of the clock

frequencies. Then, the output u_A of the first adder 11', the output v_A of the second adder 13', and the output y_A of the comparator 15' are transferred to channel C. That is, the output u_A of the first adder 11' of channel A is ~~inputted~~input to both a ~~the~~ first and a ~~the~~ second adders of channel C, the output v_A of the second adder of channel A is ~~inputted~~input to the second adder of channel C, and the output y_A of the comparator 15' of channel A is ~~inputted~~input to both the first and the second adders of channel C.

In such a manner, in the case of Fig. 3, the outputs u_A , v_A , y_A of channel A are ~~inputted~~input to channel C and the outputs u_B , v_B , y_B of channel B are ~~inputted~~input to channel D, channel C to channel E, channel D to channel A, channel E to channel B, etc.

~~Resultantly~~As a result, the output y of the 5-channel-block delta-sigma modulator shown in Fig. 3 is the same as the output of the conventional bandpass delta-sigma modulator shown in Fig. 1b. However, as shown in Fig. 4(a) and (b), the clock frequency of the 5-channel-block delta-sigma modulator is reduced to 1/5 compared to the conventional single channel block delta-sigma modulator, and the settling time of the 5-channel-block delta-sigma modulator is reduced to 1/4 compared to the conventional single channel block delta-sigma modulator. Therefore, the present invention can be implemented on a practical IF band by using switched capacitor circuits.

Although the number of channel blocks has been five (5) so far, it does not need to be limited to this, of course. Designs are possible which implement 7-channel-blocks, 9-channel-blocks, etc. are possible—odd numbers greater than or equal to five (5). It is noted that a circuit designer should weigh the trade-off~~tradeoffs~~ between in that, ~~as the number of channel blocks increases, decreased~~ the clock frequency and

settling time ~~become decreased~~ and the increased circuit complexity becomes more complicated as the number of channel blocks increases.

Figs. 6a and 6b show another embodiment of the present invention, a time-interleaved delta-sigma modulator. In this construction, the outputs u_n, v_n, y_n of an n^{th} channel block are inputted to a $(n+3)^{\text{th}}$ channel block, in order to implement a 4-delay (z^{-4}) instead of a 2-delay as shown in Fig. 2a. In this case, the basic number of channel blocks is nine(9), and this 9-channel-block delta-sigma modulator has the a clock frequency 1/9 of that of the conventional single channel block delta-sigma modulator, and it has the a settling time 1/8 of that of the conventional single channel block delta-sigma modulator. For this embodiment, the number of channel blocks may be selected out of 5, 9, 11, 13, etc.

In Fig. 6c, (a) is a timing diagram of a single block delta-sigma modulator, and (b) is a timing diagram of a 4-delay 9-channel-block bandpass delta-sigma modulator. It can be noticed that the clock frequency is reduced to 1/9 and the settling time is reduced to 1/8 compared to the conventional single channel block delta-sigma modulator.

From the foregoing, although a conventional bandpass delta-sigma modulator implemented by switched capacitors cannot be operated on a high frequency IF band, since the clock frequency of the present invention can be significantly reduced, the present invention can ~~be~~ effectively performs analog-to-digital conversion even on a high frequency IF band. Therefore, it increases flexibility in a wireless communication system, and reduces the costs.

While the invention has been shown and described with reference to a certain embodiment to carry out this invention, it will be understood by those skilled in the art

that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

ABSTRACT

Disclosed is a A time-interleaved bandpass delta-sigma modulator is developed, which includes a first adder and a second adder and a comparator. An input signal is inputted input transmitted to the first adder according to the clock frequency of an each channel block's clock frequency, and an nth channel block's output u_n of the first adder is inputted transmitted input to the first adder and the second adder of an (n+2)th n+2 channel block, and an nth block's output v_n of the second adder is inputted transmitted input to the second adder of an (n+2)th n+2 block, and an output y_n that passes through an nth block's comparator is inputted transmitted input to the first adder and the second adder of an (n+2)th n+2 block. Therefore, a modulator sequentially of the present invention receives output of the from the comparator of each block's for comparator sequentially and makes generating es the final output y .